

10/544148

Re: Point III.

JC18 Rec'd PCT/PTO 02 AUG 2005

Clarity

- 1 The subject matter of the protection claimed in Claim 1 is not clear (Article 6 PCT), as the method has not been completely defined in all its steps. In addition, the corresponding passages of the description give rise to interpretation problems which must be clarified before the application can be processed further. It remains undefined or unclear as to:
 - 1.1 Which steps of the method are carried out as a consequence of checking whether the lambda value continues to fall for a number of subsequent measured values (Claim 1, lines 14 to 16),
 - 1.2 Which steps take place in the event of a rise in the lambda value,
 - 1.3 Which step takes place if the lambda value falls by a value exactly equal to the constant C_VLS_DOWN_GRD_DYN.
 - 1.4 What is defined in the application as "falling lambda value", a leaning or a riching of the mixture.
 - 1.4.1 It is not clearly defined whether the physical term or an electrical signal of a sensor is meant by the lambda value.
 - 1.4.2 In the case of leaning, it is unclear how the control unit then reacts to a falling lambda value by eliminating lean exhaust gas packets (see Claims 1 and 5).
 - 1.5 What is meant by "breakdown of the catalytic converter".
 - 1.6 What it means that "the lambda value continues to fall for a number of subsequent measured values". Whether each lambda value must fall compared to its predecessor, or whether a falling step after a number of measured values with otherwise constant lambda values (cf. also Figs. 1 to 3) is enough.
- 2 Claim 8 is unclear and does not therefore satisfy the requirements according to Article 6 PCT. The existing formulation seems to be incomplete. The complete fact appears to proceed from the description, see e.g. p.3, lines 28 to 34.
- 3 The term "acidic mass balance" in Claim 11 is unclear and does not therefore satisfy the requirements according to Article 6 PCT. The correct term "oxygen mass balance" appears to emerge from the description, see p. 4, line 8.